



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA's Small Business Development Center Program Marks its 25th Year

WASHINGTON — Administrator Hector V. Barreto of the U.S. Small Business Administration today heralded the 25th anniversary of the Small Business Development Center Program, the SBA's largest counseling and training network, and praised the program's continued outstanding success in strengthening the nation's economy through job creation and retention.

"The 25th anniversary of the Small Business Development Center Program marks an important milestone," said Administrator Barreto. "The SBA is proud to have the SBDC as a resource partner, aiding the nation's entrepreneurs to realize their dreams of business ownership."

Officially begun in 1980 after being a pilot program for three years, the SBDC program has grown enormously, from eight to 63 Lead Centers and more than 1,000 service center locations in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. The SBDC program offers free one-on-one counseling and low-cost training by experienced business professionals to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, working in coordination with federal, state, local and private sector resources.

Since 1980, SBDCs have met the needs of more than 11 million start-up and existing business clients. Between 2002 and 2003, clients who received in-depth assistance from SBDCs started over 15,000 businesses. In fiscal year 2003, SBDC clients generated approximately \$4 in new federal tax revenues for every federal dollar spent on program funding, generating an estimated \$351.8 million in tax revenue in return for the program's \$88 million appropriation.

In fiscal year 2004, the SBA's SBDC program reported the largest number of individuals counseled in its history — 279,905 existing business owners and would-be entrepreneurs assisted with every aspect of business ownership.

SBDCs provide services such as development of business plans, manufacturing assistance, financial packaging assistance, contracting assistance and international trade assistance. Special emphasis areas include e-commerce, technology transfer, IRS, EPA and OSHA regulatory compliance, research and development, Defense Economic Transition Assistance (DETA), disaster recovery assistance and market research.

To learn more about the SBDC program or to find your local SBDC, visit www.sba.gov/sbdc.

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